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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 29 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey to you hereunder a list of the violations and infringements that were committed by Israel against Lebanon in the period from 17 to 28 May 2001. Four citizens were wounded in these incidents and one was killed when his plane was seized over Lebanese territory by two hostile Israeli aircraft and shot down in occupied Palestinian territory. Lebanon regards these incidents as an extension of Israel's aggression against its people and territory.

17 May 2001

At intervals between 0930 and 1140 hours Israeli warplanes overflew all parts of Lebanon at various altitudes. They released heat balloons in the Ba`labakk-Hirmil area and were engaged by Army KM-12 anti-aircraft artillery.

At intervals between 1305 and 2100 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

At 1530 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at very high altitudes.

Between 1530 and 1615 hours an Israeli Poclain-type excavator accompanied by a truck and two civilian vehicles were working on a transverse drainage channel near the Israeli outpost at Mazra`at Fashkul in the Shab`a farmlands.

Between 1725 and 2100 hours Israeli enemy forces at their Ramta hill and Mazra`at Fashkul outposts in the occupied Shab`a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire at surrounding areas.

17/18 May 2001

During the night Israeli enemy elements accompanied by an Israeli patrol consisting of two HMMWV ("Hummer") vehicles carried out maintenance work on the barbed wire strip along the Lebanon-Israel boundary opposite Udaysah and Kafr Killa.

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18 May 2001

At 1600 hours Israeli enemy forces near the barbed wire at the Fatimah Gate fired some light-weapons rounds at citizens congregating in the area. Hasan Fu'ad Yasin, about 20 and from Sidon, was hit in both feet and taken to the Hospital of the South in Nabatiyah for medical attention. Riyad Adil Yunus was also wounded but was treated locally.

Between 1040 and 1100 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South, Mount Lebanon and the North at very high altitudes, breaking the sound barrier over the Batrun, Zgharta and Kurah areas. Warning sirens were sounded by the fraternal forces stationed at Qulay`at air base.

19 May 2001

Between 1120 and 1215 hours Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Khiyam and Marj Uyun areas as well as Mdukha in the Western Bekaa at very high altitudes.

Between 1930 and 1940 hours an Israeli gunboat in Palestinian territorial waters off Ra's al-Naqurah fired several bursts of medium weapons fire at surrounding areas.

Between 2300 and 2310 hours Israeli forces strafed the area around their outpost at Ruwaysat al-Alam in the occupied Shab`a farmlands with medium-weapons fire.

20 May 2001

Between 0515 and 0630 hours Israeli enemy forces at the Ramta hill outpost in the occupied Shab`a farmlands fired several bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

Between 0910 and 0950 hours an Israeli enemy gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah fired several bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

Between 1025 and 1120 hours Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the South at very high altitudes.

Between 1430 and 1445 hours Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the South at very high altitudes, breaking the sound barrier.

Between 2030 and 2055 hours Israeli enemy forces at the Ruwaysat al-Alam and Radar hill outposts in the occupied Shab`a farmlands fired several bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas and launched a number of illumination flares. At the same time an Israeli enemy helicopter flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

Between 2000 and 2015 hours an Israeli helicopter flew along the Lebanese border over occupied Palestinian territory and over Rumaysh, launching three illumination flares over occupied Palestinian territory.

Between 2050 and 2110 hours an Israeli enemy gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah launched three illumination flares over the surrounding area.

Between 2145 and 2155 hours two Israeli enemy helicopters flew over Mazra`at Fashkul in the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

At 2255 hours Israeli enemy forces at one of their outposts in the occupied Shab`a farmlands fired two direct-fire rounds at the area around Birkat al-Saddanah in an outlying area of Shab`a in liberated Lebanese territory.

Between 2310 and 2330 hours an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Tyre area at very high altitude.

Between 2310 and 2330 hours six Israeli enemy helicopters flew over Hula and Udaysah inside Lebanese territory and over occupied Palestinian territory along the Lebanese border.

21 May 2001

Between 0855 and 0905 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over liberated Lebanese territory in an outlying area of Udaysah at an altitude of some 200 metres.

Between 0800 and 0945 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Shab`a farmlands.

At 1040 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the North at very high altitudes, leaving at 1035 hours [sic].

At 1100 hours three Israeli warplanes overflew Beirut International Airport at moderate altitude.

At 1105 hours an Israeli Apache helicopter flew over occupied Palestinian territory close to the Lebanese border in the Ra's al-Naqurah area.

At 1320 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Hasbayya, Marj Uyun and Shab`a farmlands areas.

Between 1310 and 1500 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South, Mount Lebanon and the North at very high altitudes, breaking the sound barrier and carrying out mock attacks in the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

Between 1400 and 1500 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Shab`a farmlands.

Between 2000 and 2055 hours Israeli enemy warplanes, helicopters and reconnaissance aircraft flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

Between 2110 and 2115 hours Israeli enemy forces at one of their positions in the occupied territories opposite Ramya launched two illumination flares over the surrounding area.

At 2215 hours an Israeli gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah launched an illumination flare over the surrounding area.

22 May 2001

Between 1515 and 1535 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South and the Western Bekaa at very high altitudes.

Between 0930 and 1010 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the occupied Shab`a farmlands at very high altitude.

At 1640 hours two slow-moving potential hostile targets entered Lebanese airspace west of Shikka heading south and 8 nautical miles offshore. At 1710 hours they left Lebanese airspace over the sea west of Naqurah.

Between 1730 and 1915 hours there were three unexplained explosions in the Mughr Shab`a area of the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

Between 1945 and 2005 hours the Israeli enemy at the Ramta hill outpost directed a number of bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at the surrounding area.

Between 2100 and 2120 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

Between 2205 and 2305 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the Shab`a farmlands. At the same time, movements of Israeli forces vehicles were observed around their outpost at Radar hill in the same area.

At 2340 hours Israeli forces at one of their outposts in the occupied Shab`a farmlands launched two illumination flares over their outpost at Radar hill in the same area.

23 May 2001

Between 0500 and 0515 hours Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Marj Uyun areas at very high altitudes.

At intervals between 0700 and 1245 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the occupied Shab`a farmlands at very high altitudes.

Between 1115 and 1445 hours an Israeli bulldozer was engaged in fortification work at the Israeli position at the town of Abbasiyah in the occupied territories.

Between 1200 and 1210 hours an Israeli gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire at surrounding areas.

At intervals between 1300 and 1600 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Lebanese territory at very high altitudes, breaking the sound barrier.

Between 1320 and 1855 hours Israeli reconnaissance aircraft and Israeli helicopters overflew the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

At intervals between 1330 and 1600 hours Israeli occupation forces strafed the area around their outpost at Ruwaysat al-Alam in the occupied Shab`a farmlands with medium-weapons fire.

Between 2100 and 2240 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands and over liberated Lebanese territory to a depth of some 200 metres opposite Udaysah.

At 2300 hours there were four unexplained explosions in the Shab`a farmlands.

23/24 May 2001

Between 2040 and 0500 hours Israeli occupation forces sent up a balloon over their outpost at Ramta hill in the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

During the night Israeli enemy forces at the Summaqah and Ruwaysat al-Alam outposts in the occupied Shab`a farmlands mounted observation cameras on two 7-metre-high poles. They removed them at 1400 hours.

24 May 2001

Between 0230 and 0245 hours Israeli forces at the Fatimah Gate fired several light-weapons rounds into the air for unknown reasons. No one was hurt.

At intervals between 0500 and 0730 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Naqurah area and the occupied Shab`a farmlands at very high altitudes.

At 0700 hours an Israeli MK-type spyplane overflew Hasbayya and the Arqub.

At 1045 hours a certain Stefan Nikolian took off from Beirut International Airport in a private Cessna aircraft belonging to the GR company, without the knowledge or permission of the company and without permission from the airport, and headed south. He flew over the South, and the plane was accompanied by two hostile warplanes into occupied Palestinian territory. It subsequently transpired that the two Israeli aircraft had brought the plane down into the sea off the Netanya colony, killing the pilot.

Between 1050 and 1140 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Kharrub, Shuf, Jazzin, Marj Uyun, Hasbayya, Western Bekaa, Tyre, Sidon, Bint Jubayl and Nabatiyah areas and over occupied Palestinian territory adjacent to Lebanese territory at low altitudes.

Between 1930 and 2115 hours an Israeli gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah launched an illumination flare and fired several bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

Between 2100 and 2110 hours Israeli enemy forces at the Ramta hill outpost in the occupied Shab`a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at the surrounding area.

Between 2110 and 2155 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

Between 1535 and 1705 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Western Bekaa.

25 May 2001

Between 0730 and 0830 hours Israeli warplanes and reconnaissance aircraft flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands at very high altitudes.

Between 1050 and 1245 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South, Mount Lebanon, the Bekaa and the North at very high altitudes and an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Shab`a farmlands.

Between 1130 and 1400 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South as far as Mount Lebanon at very high altitudes.

Between 1410 and 1610 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

At 1140 hours Israeli enemy forces near the Abbad site fired several light-weapons rounds while a number of citizens were congregating there. Muhammad Ali al-Asadi, about 20 years old, was hit in the leg by one round and was taken to the Hospital of the South in Nabatiyah.

At 1215 hours Israeli enemy forces fired several light-weapons rounds into the air as a number of citizens were congregating at the Fatimah Gate. No one was hurt.

Between 1440 and 1635 hours Israeli occupation forces at the Fatimah Gate fired several light-weapons rounds into the air while some citizens were throwing stones. No one was hurt.

At 1730 hours Israeli enemy forces near the Abbad site fired several light-weapons rounds at a number of citizens congregating there. Bassam Mahmud Ja`far, born in 1986, was hit in the hip and the left foot by some lead fragments.

At 1815 hours Israeli forces at one of their positions in occupied Palestinian territory fired two phosphorus shells of unknown calibre that impacted in Lebanese territory opposite the position mentioned and set fire to some 300 square metres of afforested land. This set off several mines left behind by the Israeli enemy.

At 1835 hours Israeli forces at the Abbad hill position fired several bursts of light-weapons fire into the air. No one was hurt.

At 2045 hours Israeli occupation forces sent up a balloon between their positions at Ramta hill and Ruwaysat al-Summaqah in the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

At 2120 hours an Israeli gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah launched an illumination flare over the surrounding area.

26 May 2001

Between 0715 and 0855 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at very high altitudes.

Between 1430 and 1530 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at very high altitudes.

27 May 2001

Between 0610 and 0630 hours an Israeli gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah directed a number of bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at the surrounding area.

Between 0700 and 1005 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

Between 0925 and 0935 hours an Israeli gunboat in Palestinian territorial waters off Ra's al-Naqurah fired several bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

Between 0915 and 1005 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at very high altitudes.

Between 1100 and 1130 hours Israeli warplanes overflew all parts of Lebanon at very high altitudes breaking the sound barrier.

28 May 2001

At 0300 hours an Israeli gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah launched an illumination flare and directed a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire at the surrounding area.

At intervals between 0600 and 1100 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

Between 0815 and 0915 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre, Marj Uyun and Nabatiyah areas at very high altitudes.

Between 1455 and 1540 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Naqurah, Nabatiyah and Marj Uyun areas at very high altitudes.

Like the previous Israeli violations of which it represents a continuation, this new series is in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and of Lebanon's sovereignty and poses a threat to stability in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative